

1. *BLENNECHIS FASCIATUS*. Jen.

PLATE XVII. Fig. 1.

B. flavescens, fusco-variatus; maculis tribus infra pinnam dorsalem, et unâ in pinna ipsius anticam partem, nigris, subocellatis: dentibus maxillaribus supra circiter viginti quatuor, subtus triginta; caninis nullis: tentaculis palpebralis duobus, parvis, subpalmatis: pinnâ anali haud ultrâ dorsalem extensâ.

D. 13/16; A. 20; C. 13, &c.; P. 14; V. 2.

LONG. unc. 2. lin. 4.

FORM.—Body much compressed behind: the depth one-fifth of the entire length: head rather less than one-fourth of the same. Snout blunt and truncated; the profile nearly vertical; the eye placed just within the angle formed by this last with the line of the crown. Diameter of the eye one-fourth the length of the head; distance between the eyes half a diameter; the interocular space very slightly concave, with a double row of mucous pores rather widely separate, but without any lines or sculpture. Similar mucous pores are thinly scattered over the occiput and the front of the snout, as well as beneath each eye. Above each eye is a short slightly palmated filament not exceeding in length the diameter of the eye: also an extremely minute one at each nostril. Mouth reaching to beneath the eyes. Teeth not extending the whole length of the jaws; fine and close-set, with the points of those at the sides, more especially in the lower jaw, reclining backwards; the number above twenty-four, below thirty: no canines. Gill membrane fastened at bottom, the slit at the sides not descending below the pectorals.

The dorsal commences at the nape, and extends nearly to the caudal, with which, however, it is not connected: it is slightly depressed or notched above the twelfth and thirteenth rays, beyond which it is again elevated to the height of the anterior portion. The anal does not approach quite so near the caudal as the dorsal, but the difference is trifling: the last ray in both fins is united by the membrane to the fleshy part of the tail. Caudal rounded, with the greater part of the principal rays slightly divided at the tips. Pectorals broad, and not quite equal to the head in length. Ventrals short, not more than half the length of the head, or a little less than one-eighth of the entire length: they appear to consist of only two rays, but on dissection there will be found three soft rays with a short spine closely adhering to the first of them; the third soft ray is slender, and also adheres to the second.

The anterior portion of the lateral line takes a sweep over the pectoral, and is very distinctly marked by a close series of short elevated mucous tubes between two rows of pores; but the rest of the line is only faintly traced out by nine or ten slender depressed tubes at long intervals, without any accompanying pores.

COLOUR.—(*In spirits.*) Yellowish ground; the upper half of the sides very much mottled, and clouded with fuscous; three spots darker than the rest, arranged longitudinally beneath the posterior half of the dorsal, and having a subocellated appearance, the last the largest, and also the most distinct of the three: from the median line there are eight or nine descending fasciæ, alternating with the same number of oblong lanceolate spots: the throat is marked with three angulated transverse dark fasciæ: cheeks and gill-covers with small spots. A large black spot on the first three rays of the dorsal fin, which is covered all over with smaller spots, as are also

the pectorals and caudal: anal with a dusky edging. In the living state there were probably some bright colours, as in the *B. biocellatus* of Cuvier and Valenciennes.

A second specimen has the fin-ray formula as follows:—

D. 13/18; A. 21, &c.

This specimen also differs from the one above in having the teeth in the lower jaw not quite so numerous, and the ventrals longer, equalling one-seventh of the entire length. The colours are on the whole similar, but more of the yellow ground is visible above the median line, and the descending fasciæ beneath it are not so distinctly traced out.

Habitat, Concepcion, Chile.

This species is very closely allied to the *B. biocellatus* of Cuvier and Valenciennes, from the same coasts. It agrees with it in all its essential characters, and in the general disposition of the markings. It appears to differ, however, in having fewer teeth; in the anal reaching hardly so far as, certainly not beyond, the dorsal, as described to be the case in that species; in the fin-ray formula; and slightly in the colours. The *B. biocellatus* derives its name from two ocellated spots, one beneath the last rays of the dorsal, the other upon the first three rays of that fin. In the *B. fasciatus* here described, there appear to be three subocellated spots beneath the dorsal, though the last is the most distinct, besides the one upon the fin itself. The *B. biocellatus* was observed by M. Gay at Valparaiso. The present species was taken by Mr. Darwin at Concepcion. Possibly it may be a mere variety.

2. *BLENNECHIS ORNATUS*. Jen.

PLATE XVII. Fig. 2.

B. cinereo-griseus; maculis, vel lituris paucis, infra pinnam dorsalem obsoletis, pallidè nigris: dentibus caninis nullis: tentaculis palpebralis duobus, parvis, subfurcatis: pinnâ anali haud ultrâ dorsalem extensâ.

D. 12/17; A. 20; &c.—

LONG. unc. 2. lin. 2.

FORM.—Closely resembling the last species, but rather deeper in proportion to its length, less compressed in front, with the head more inflated about the throat and gills. Snout, profile, and position of the eye, similar. Superciliary filaments scarcely longer, but rather broader and more conspicuous, and cleft at the extremity. Filaments at the nostrils a little longer, but very slender and delicate. Teeth similar, both in number and form. Fins and lateral line exactly similar. Behind the vent a papilla not present in the last species.

COLOUR.—Different from that of the *B. fasciatus*, but with traces of the same markings. The ground colour is cinereous grey, which almost every where prevails: there are faint traces of the angulated fasciæ beneath the chin, as well as of three dark stains beneath the dorsal, but these last no longer deserve the name of ocellated spots. Fins, cheeks, and gill-covers,